

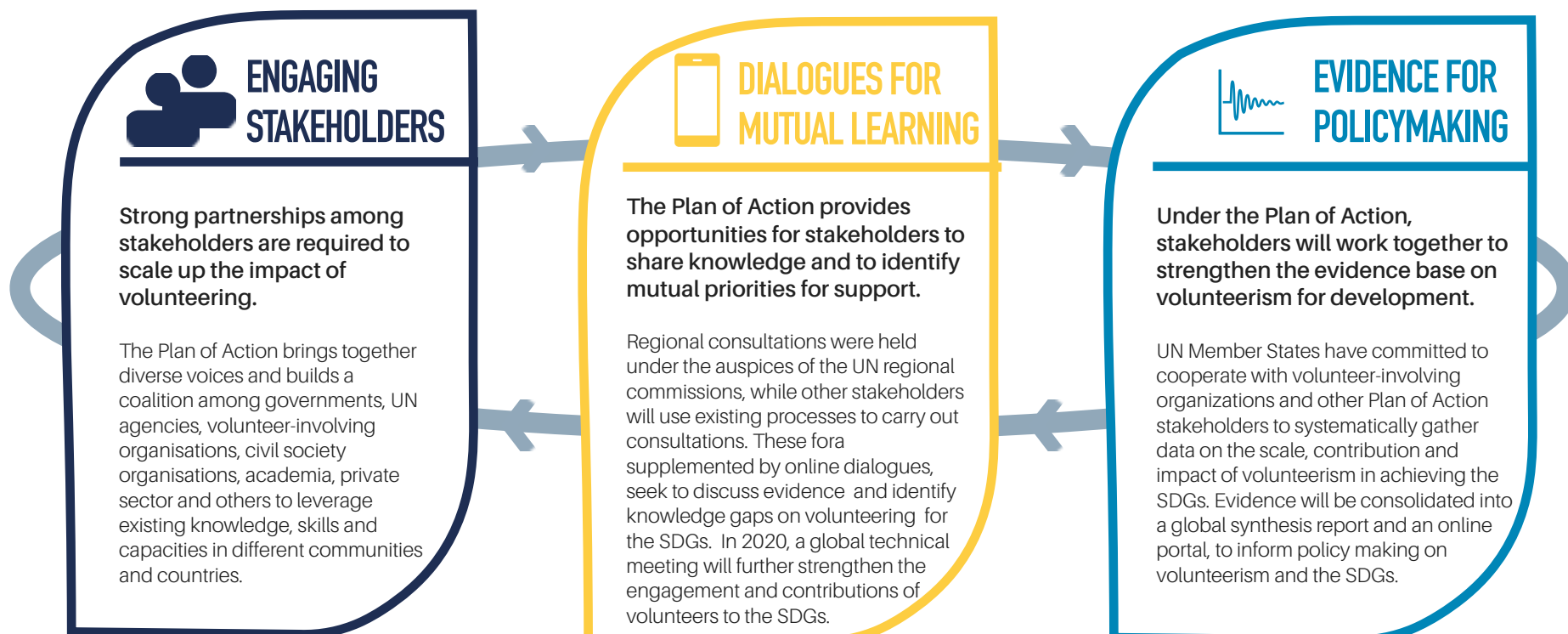


# PLAN OF ACTION TO INTEGRATE VOLUNTEERING INTO THE 2030 AGENDA

The **Plan of Action to Integrate Volunteering into the 2030 Agenda** is a framework under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) through which governments, UN agencies, volunteer-involving organizations, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector come together to **integrate and accelerate the contribution of volunteerism to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.



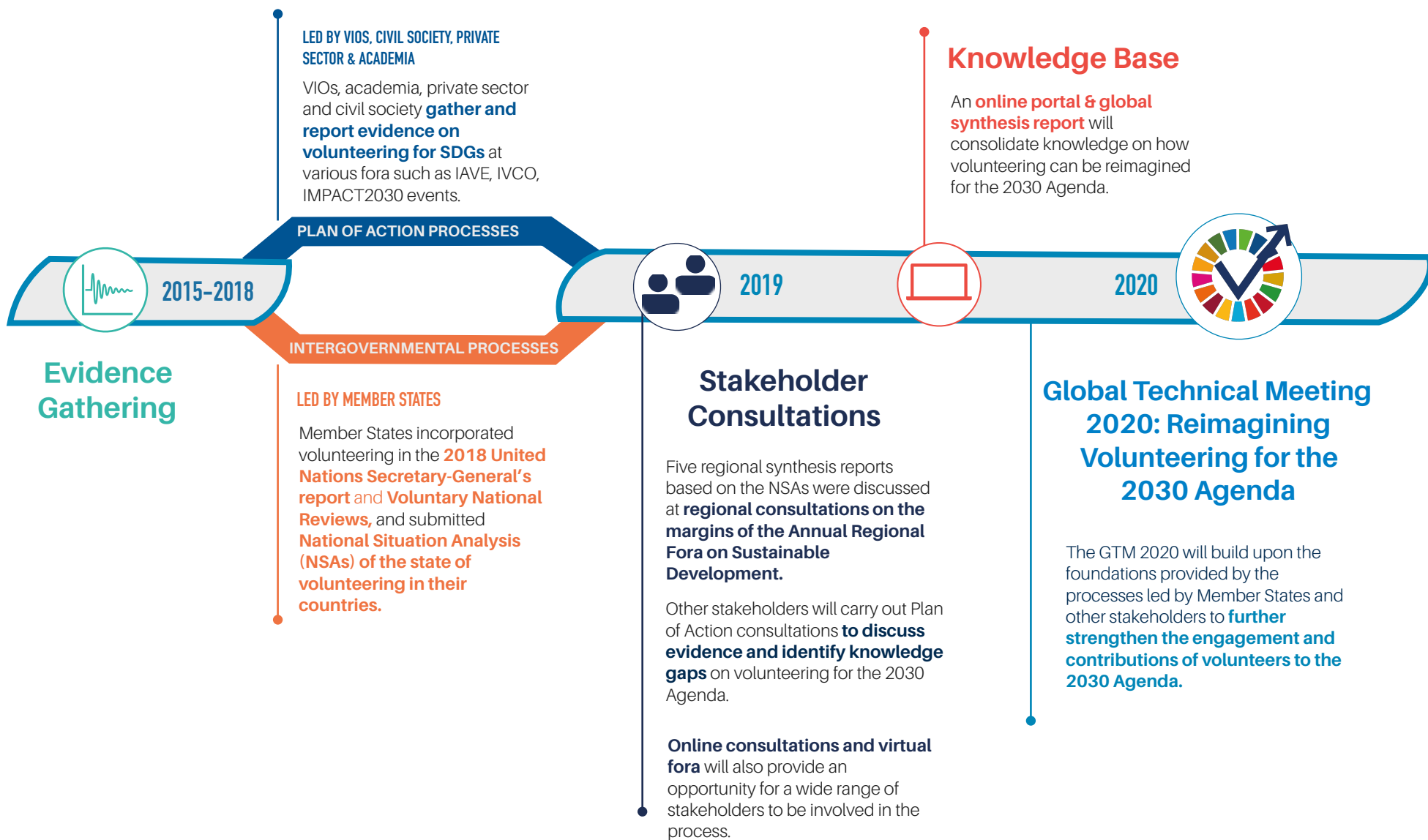
One billion volunteers contribute to their communities globally - yet volunteering remains a largely untapped resource with a huge potential to achieve a people-centric and socially-inclusive sustainable development. **The Plan of Action provides an unprecedented opportunity to shape the future of volunteering for the 2030 Agenda**, through:





# ROAD TO 2020: REIMAGINING VOLUNTEERING

The roadmap shows the multi-stakeholder processes leading to the Global Technical Meeting on “Reimagining volunteering for the 2030 Agenda.”



## 2019 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

[www.unv.org/planofaction](http://www.unv.org/planofaction)

March  
**13**  
- June

**Plan of Action Online Dialogues - Shape the Future of Volunteering**  
[www.unv.org/planofaction/dialogues](http://www.unv.org/planofaction/dialogues)

April  
**10**  
Beirut

**Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Arab States** (on the margins of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development)

July  
**9-18**  
New York

**High Level Political Forum 2019** (Presentation of the Voluntary National Reviews)

March  
**21**  
Geneva

**Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Europe** (on the margins of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region)

April  
**18**  
Tangier

**Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Africa** (on the margins of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development)

August  
**28-30**  
Yokohama

**Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)** (tbc)

March  
**26**  
Bangkok

**Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Asia Pacific** (on the margins of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development)

April  
**25**  
Santiago de Chile

**Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Latin America and the Caribbean** (on the margins of the Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development)

October  
**27-30**  
Kigali

**International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations Conference (IVCO)**

December  
**4-12**  
Geneva

**International Federation of Red Cross Statutory Meetings** (tbc); **International Day of Volunteers**



# ENGAGE IN THE PLAN OF ACTION

The **Plan of Action to Integrate Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda** brings together United Nations Member States, UN Agencies, volunteer-involving organizations, academia, civil society organizations and the private sector to boost the contribution of volunteerism under the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) oversee implementation of the Plan of Action.

**During 2019 and 2020, diverse stakeholders are coming together to reimagine the future of volunteerism by:**

## VOLUNTEER INVOLVING ORGANIZATIONS (VIOs)

- ✓ Participating in the Volunteer Groups Alliance to highlight the contribution of volunteers in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in other intergovernmental processes and mechanisms
- ✓ Sharing trends, evidence, best practices and lessons learnt through the consultation and evidence processes under the Plan of Action
- ✓ Identifying priority areas for the Global Technical Meeting where volunteerism can really bolster efforts to reach the furthest behind first

## UN MEMBER STATES

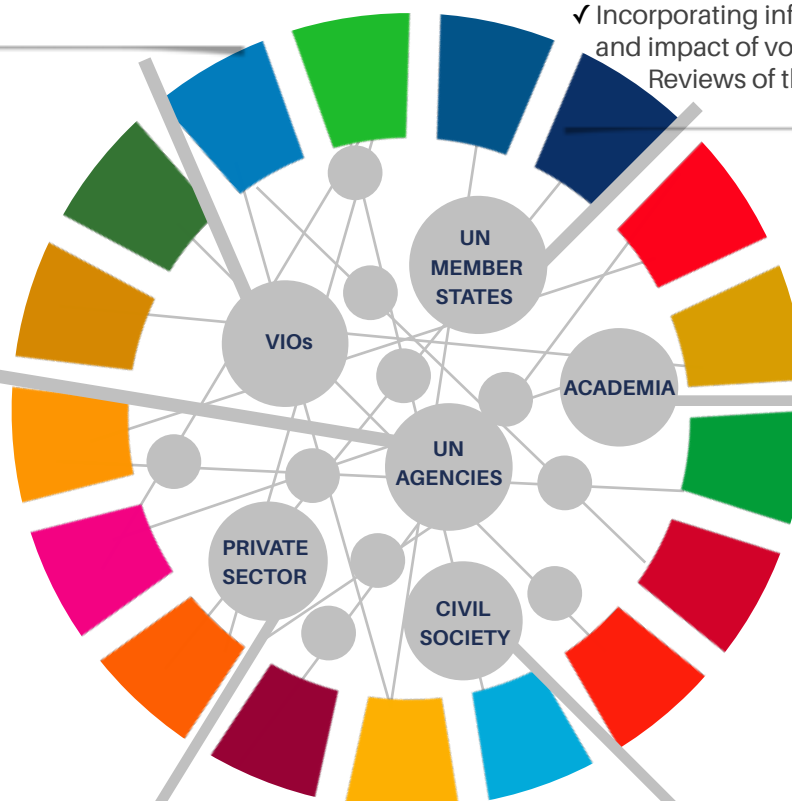
- ✓ Measuring volunteer work and impact through national statistical offices
- ✓ Integrating volunteering into sector and national strategies, schemes and volunteering infrastructure, with a focus on social and economic inclusion
- ✓ Providing an enabling environment with the rights and freedoms for volunteers to organize for peace and development
- ✓ Creating spaces and opportunities for evidence generation and dialogue on volunteerism with stakeholders at national and sub-national level, as part of regular policy, planning and implementation
- ✓ Participating in Plan of Action dialogues at regional and global level, in the margins of SDG processes
- ✓ Incorporating information on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in Voluntary National Reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals

## UN AGENCIES

- ✓ Recognizing and including volunteering in UN-led and sector processes at the national, regional, and global level
- ✓ Participating in UN inter-agency fora on citizen-led approaches and community partnerships through volunteering
- ✓ Measuring and documenting of the contribution of volunteers in peace and development strategies and programmes of all UN agencies and their partners
- ✓ Mobilizing volunteers for diverse assignments supporting the 2030 Agenda as part of UN system capacities

## ACADEMIA

- ✓ Strengthening evidence of volunteerism's contribution to development through deepening research and sharing knowledge and expertise on key volunteering and development themes and topics such as gender, climate change, migration and inclusion
- ✓ Strengthening the inputs from Southern-based academia to improve evidence base from the global South
- ✓ Supporting governments and their development partners in use of evidence for policies and practice on volunteerism



## PRIVATE SECTOR

- ✓ Sharing expertise, experiences, best practices and lessons learned in working with volunteers through various fora, platforms and processes
- ✓ Promoting and integrating corporate volunteering as part of the company's CSR initiatives

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- ✓ Using volunteerism to widen participation in and strengthen people's ownership of the 2030 Agenda
- ✓ Measuring and documenting the contribution of volunteers in peace and development strategies and programmes
- ✓ Sharing expertise, experiences, best practices and lessons learned in working with volunteers through various foras, platforms and processes under the Plan of Action
- ✓ Advocating for an enabling environment and the freedom to self-organize through volunteering as part of civil society space



# PLAN OF ACTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The **Plan of Action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda** was developed together with volunteer-involving organizations, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, UN agencies and UN Member States. Adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2015, the Resolution on **“Integrating volunteering in peace and development: the Plan of Action for the next decade and beyond” (A/RES/70/129)** provides a global framework through which stakeholders can support and leverage the potential of volunteerism to deepen civic engagement and sustainable development outcomes.

How was the Plan of Action developed and why?

The UNGA resolution that followed in 2018 (A/RES/73/140) encouraged Member States to increasingly cooperate with other volunteering stakeholders to further integrate volunteerism into national development strategies; include information on the impact of volunteerism in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of the SDGs; and called for national-level analysis on volunteering as inputs for regional consultations on volunteering in 2019, to be held in the context of the annual Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.

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**The implementation mechanisms for the Plan of Action** are set out in the Report of the Secretary General on the Plan of Action. These include the preparation of country level analysis with the aim of ensuring that these National Situation Analysis (NSA) inform and be part of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports on progress towards the SDGs. The NSAs will inform the Regional Synthesis Reports which will be presented at the Regional Consultations coinciding with the annual Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. Finally, a Global Synthesis Report will be developed for the Global Technical Meeting in 2020 (GTM2020). To complement these inter-governmental implementation mechanisms, civil society, academia and the private sector and especially volunteer involving organizations are encouraged to use all existing fora and processes to increase consultations and document trends, evidence, best practices and lessons learnt. These will serve as inputs to the GTM2020 and the Global Synthesis Report.

How is the Plan of Action implemented?

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The theme of the **2020 Global Technical Meeting will be “Reimagining Volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda”**. It will focus on sharing lessons learnt with a view to informing a debate on the evolving nature of volunteerism in the face of more complex global challenges; and the adjustments required to further improve the practices, contributions and impact of the global volunteer movement to peace and development and the achievement of the SDGs between 2021 and 2030. The outcomes of the GTM2020 will help set the roadmap on the reimagining of volunteering in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

What will happen at the Global Technical Meeting 2020?

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**Generating analysis, evidence and knowledge sharing on how volunteerism** has been and is contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a critical component to effectively scale up the impact of volunteering in the 2030 Agenda. This entails: reviewing the role of volunteerism, particularly in the process of localizing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and creating a knowledge base that is inclusive of good practices, lessons learnt and data sets on volunteering for the SDGs.

Why is an evidence-based approach the cornerstone of the Plan of Action?

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**The Global Volunteer Community including** governments, UN Agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector and especially volunteer involving organizations has an important role in **collecting and validating evidence in the lead up to the GTM 2020**, particularly on the role of volunteerism in improving data availability for Agenda 2030; on measures which can be taken to make volunteerism more effective as a modality and mechanism to help achieve the SDGs; and on key Agenda 2030 policy areas through which policymakers and Plan of Action stakeholders can prioritize volunteers as powerful SDG accelerators. Some relevant policy areas to look at include inequality, social inclusion, demographic changes, gender, climate change, safety and security of volunteers, role of volunteering in the SDG localisation process, South-South cooperation, and impact measurement.

What are the key focus areas of the consultations leading to the GTM2020?

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**The GTM2020 Secretariat is co-chaired by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and UNV.** A technical working group provides strategic direction to the process. The Plan of Action Secretariat is hosted at UNV. Its main role is to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda, including co-organizing the GTM2020.

How is the Plan of Action coordinated?

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Visit the **Plan of Action website [www.unv.org/planofaction](http://www.unv.org/planofaction)**. Contact the Plan of Action Secretariat at [unv.poa@unv.org](mailto:unv.poa@unv.org) or your national UN Volunteers focal point for further information.

Where can I find more information?